

Distribution Integrity Management Program



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DIMP NOPR

192.1017

**When may an operator deviate from
required periodic inspections under
this part?**

§192.1017

(a) An operator may propose to reduce the frequency of periodic inspections and tests required in this part on the basis of the engineering analysis and risk assessment required by this subpart. Operators may propose reductions only where they can demonstrate that the reduced frequency will not significantly increase risk.

§192.1017

(b) An operator must submit its proposal to the PHMSA Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety or the State agency responsible for oversight of the operator's system. PHMSA, or the applicable State oversight agency, may accept the proposal, with or without conditions and limitations, on a showing that the adjusted interval provides a satisfactory level of pipeline safety.

Why Alternate Timeframes

The regulations now require that operators perform these actions at time defined intervals.

This is not risk-based. These regulations may require frequent actions that results in little safety benefit, or may not be done often enough to realize full benefit

Time Defined Regulations

Subpart I

- Part 192.465 CP Testing
Rectifier Inspection
- Part.192.465 Pipelines w/no CP
- Part 192.481 Exposed Pipe
Inspection for Corrosion

Time Defined Regulations

Subpart M

- Part 192.721 Main Patrolling
- Part 192.723 Leak Surveys
- Part 192.739 Pressure Limiting
Devices Tested
- Part 192.747 Emergency Valves
- Part 192.749 Vault Inspections

How Operators Can Use This

Deviating from set intervals, now specified in sections of Part 192, would allow operators to be more risk-based in the application of their resources.

The resources made available by using alternate intervals, where appropriate, could be used to address more risk-significant threats.

Regulatory Approval

Operators would be required to submit their proposal, with justification, to jurisdictional safety regulators for review and decision to determine if the proposal will show that the adjusted interval provides a satisfactory level of pipeline safety.

Performance Data for Request

Operators must provide data demonstrating that the reduced frequency will not significantly increase risk.

An example could be by providing data that atmospheric corrosion is a low risk to the safety of the system and exposed piping may be inspected every 4 years instead of every 3 years (Part 192.481).